

MR. & MRS. ALAN VERNON YOUNG GALLERY

Ingrid Mayrhofer: After All That Was Solid Melts Into Air

In this solo exhibition of recent works, Hamilton-based artist Ingrid Mayrhofer explores the image of a changing city. Video collages and digital photomontages document the altered streetscape during the process of demolition along King Street East in preparation for the City's planned Light Rail Transit (LRT).

After photographing many different stages of change – from active businesses and housing, to boarded up buildings and construction fencing, and newly revealed historical details – the artist created absurdist reality composites by incorporating the candy-coloured and tagged hoarding.

Her earlier series of collagraphs offer aerial views of the industrial sector and interpretations of the steelmaking process together with façades of workers' homes. The inclusion of cyanotypes and photographs from the AGH collection that document steel making and the TH&B railway construction, situates Mayrhofer's camera angle as she rambles along the tensions of progress.

First Introductory Wall

Clockwise from left:

John Heddle (Canadian)

Stoney Creek Bridge Under Construction,

T.H. & B. Ry. c. 1900

T.H. & B. Ry. Tunnel under Construction,

Hamilton c. 1900

Toronto Hamilton & Buffalo Ry. along the

Grand River c. 1900

T.H. & B. Ry. nearing Mountain Top c. 1900

T.H. & B. Ry. Tunnel under Construction,

Hamilton c. 1900

Rock Cut, T.H. & B. Ry. c. 1900

all works cyanotype on paper

Gifts of Ron W. Rodgers, 1980

On the right (from left to right):

George Hunter (Canadian, 1921-2013)

*ON: Hamilton - Dofasco steel mill: Pouring iron
billets 1975*

*ON: Hamilton - Dofasco steel mill: Teeming a
heat of steel 1974*

ON: Hamilton - Dofasco steel mill: Newly poured

steel ingots 1974

All works ekta chromogenic prints

Gifts of the artist, 2011

Left Wall

From left to right:

Hamilton Bridge Works 2021

Martin's Bowling I 2021

The HUB 2021

937 2021

Main at Kenilworth 2021

Martin's Bowling II 2021

digital collages

1207 2021

video, running time 00:01:11 loop

Since 1967 2021

Robert's Interior 2021

digital collages

Mayrhofer's digital photomontages and video collage are absurdist reality compositions that document, but also creatively intervene, in our sense of streetscapes altered during

the process of demolition along King Street East, in preparation for the City's planned Light Rail Transit (LRT).

Video Installation on Back Wall

Around the Corner there is Another Corner 2022

video installation

2-channel video collage with photographs by the artist and by John Heddle, Assistant City Engineer of Hamilton, c. 1900, from the AGH permanent collection

running time: 00:16:08 loop

For the Archives is the title of the body of work comprising Mayrhofer's eight digital collages, a video collage and the dual-channel video installation *Around the Corner there is Another Corner*.

Mayrhofer considers what pieces of this urban puzzle become part of the past, while also thinking of the present and future. We are charged with the responsibility to act, and to be an active part of how the changing city takes shape. She refers to Karl Marx with the exhibition title phrase, "after all that was solid melts into air." Considering how old and new come together, Marx was thinking about rural society in the 1860s in contrast to the urban industrial liberal class, specifically in Europe. He observed that "anything that had any standing

evaporated,” and Mayrhofer mines this theory, suggesting that it resonates with what’s going on now. Things change so quickly around us sometimes that we can’t keep up. Mayrhofer’s concerns are for the tensions in Hamilton at this time: what are we working towards? Is this car-friendly city, versus what people really need, like public transit, walkability and of course, affordable housing?

Right Wall

Clockwise from top left:

On the Slag heap I 2016

Hot Rolled 2015

Hot Rolled III 2016

Hot Rolled IV 2016

Hot Rolled II 2016

On the Slag heap II 2016

Collagraphs

Mayrhofer’s earlier series of collagraphs offer aerial views of the industrial sector and interpretations of the steelmaking process together with the facades of workers’ homes. The inclusion of cyanotypes from the AGH collection (at the

beginning of the exhibition), that document steel making and the TH&B railway construction, situates Mayrhofer's work as she explores the tensions of progress.

Behind Introductory Wall

Clockwise from top left:

Steeltown 3 2013

Steeltown 5 2014

Steeltown 7 2014

Steeltown VIII 2019

Steeltown 6 2014

Steeltown 4 2014

All exhibition works courtesy of the artist